

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following claim listing will replace all previous listings of the claims:

1. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding an IL-13 receptor α -chain comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:4.

2. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a derivative of an IL-13 receptor α -chain, wherein said receptor α -chain comprises the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 4, and wherein the derivative is an extracellular domain of the IL-13 receptor α -chain which comprises amino acids 28-~~[[342]]~~346 of SEQ ID NO: 4 or comprises an amino acid sequence having at least 95% identity with amino acids 28-~~[[342]]~~346 of SEQ ID NO: 4, and wherein said derivative binds with IL-13.

3-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a sequence of nucleotides which encodes an IL-13 receptor α -chain that binds IL-13, ~~said nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence as~~ wherein said sequence is set forth in SEQ ID NO: 3 or ~~comprising a nucleotide sequence which~~ hybridizes to the complement of the nucleotide sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 3 under stringency conditions, and wherein said stringency conditions comprise hybridization in 5x SSC at 50°C and washing in 0.2x SSC at 50°C.

8-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously presented) An expression vector comprising a nucleic acid molecule according to any one of claims 1, 2 or 7, operably linked to a promoter which directs expression of said nucleic acid molecule in a host cell.

11-24. (Cancelled)

25. (Previously presented) A composition comprising a nucleic acid molecule according to any one of claims 1, 2 or 7, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

26-27. (Cancelled)

28. (Previously presented) A method of producing a recombinant polypeptide having at least two of the following characteristics:

- (i) comprises the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:4;
- (ii) is encoded by the nucleotide sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:3;
- (iii) binds with IL-13 or its derivatives; and
- (iv) said polypeptide, when expressed in COS cells, has a molecular weight of from about 50,000 to about 70,000 daltons as determined by Western blot analysis,

said method comprising culturing cells comprising the expression vector according to claim 10 for a time and under conditions sufficient to express the nucleic acid molecule in said expression vector to produce a recombinant polypeptide and isolating said recombinant polypeptide.

29. (Previously presented) A method of producing a recombinant polypeptide having at least three of the following characteristics:

- (i) comprises the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:4;
- (ii) is encoded by the nucleotide sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:3;
- (iii) binds with IL-13 or its derivatives;
- (iv) said polypeptide, when expressed in COS cells, has a molecular weight of from about 50,000 to about 70,000 daltons as determined by Western blot analysis;
- (v) comprises an amino acid sequence derived from IL-4 receptor α -chain; and
- (vi) is capable of interaction with IL-13 which is competitively inhibited by IL-4 in cells which express an IL-4 receptor α -chain,

said method comprising culturing cells comprising the expression vector according to claim 10 for a time and under conditions sufficient to express the nucleic acid molecule in said expression vector to produce a recombinant polypeptide and isolating said recombinant polypeptide.

30-36. (Cancelled)

37. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO: 3.

38-42. (Cancelled)

43. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of claim 2, encoding a polypeptide consisting of amino acids 28-~~[[342]]~~346 of SEQ ID NO: 4.

44. (Currently amended) ~~[[The]]~~An isolated nucleic acid molecule ~~of claim 1~~, encoding a polypeptide consisting of amino acids 28-426 of SEQ ID NO:4.

45-46. (Cancelled)

47. (Previously presented) A method of producing a recombinant polypeptide comprising culturing cells comprising the expression vector according to claim 10 for a time and under conditions sufficient to express a polypeptide encoded by said expression vector and isolating said recombinant polypeptide.

48. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid sequence of claim 2 wherein said sequence consists of nucleotides 142-~~[[1086]]~~1098 of SEQ ID NO: 3.

49. (Currently amended) ~~[[The]]~~An isolated nucleic acid molecule ~~sequence of claim 1~~ ~~wherein said sequence consists of~~ consisting of nucleotides 142-1338 of SEQ ID NO: 3.

50-52. (Cancelled)

53. (Previously presented) An isolated host cell transformed with the expression vector of claim 10.

54. (Previously presented) An isolated host cell which expresses a recombinant polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid molecule according to any one of claims 1, 2 or 7.